

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-06 RSC-01 /025 W

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P 130950Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

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E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : OREP (CHARLES PERCY)

SUBJECT : CODEL PERCY:IMPACT

1. SENATOR PERCY SPENT AFTERNOON AND EVENING JANUARY 11 IN
BAHRAIN.

IT WAS HIGHEST-

POWERED VISIT WE HAVE HAD SINCE I

ARRIVED IN JUNE. IT GAVE EVERY INDICATION OF HAVING A

NEARLY PERFECT IMPACT.

2. SENATOR HAD ONE HOUR MEETING WITH AMIR, WITH PRIME
MINISTER ATTENDING LATTER HALF. (AT SENATOR'S REQUEST
SEPTTEL WILL SUMMARIZE DISCUSSION) HE TALKED UP, NOT DOWN, TO
THEM, MADE SOME EXCELLENT POINTS AND DREW THEM OUT IMPRESSIVELY.

(AMIR AT ONE POINT WHISPERED TO ME NERVOUSLY "I HOPE I AM
SAYING THE RIGHT THINGS."). THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY AWARE THEY
WERE DEALING WITH A POWERFUL AND IMPRESSIVE AMERICAN POLITICAL
FIGURE AND WERE CLEARLY DELIGHTED WITH HIS RECEPTIVENESS TO
THEIR

CONCERNS AND HIS OWN CONCERN FOR PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION. LATER AT RESIDENCE DINNER FOREIGN MINISTER GOT
IN GOOD HOUR OF WIDE-RANGING EXCHANGE WITH SENATOR AND CAME
AWAY EFFUSIVELY IMPRESSED.

3. SENATOR HELD ONE HOUR DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES
AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. THEY WERE GRATEFUL FOR CHANCE TO
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AIR THEIR VIEWS ON HOW U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY AFFECTS THEIR

INTERESTS. SENATOR SEEMED IMPRESSED BY THEIR UNANIMITY OF ENTHUSIASM FOR BAHRAIN AS HOSPITABLE NATURAL SITE FOR CONDUCTING REGIONAL SERVICE OPERATIONS.

4. COMMENT: SHORTLY AFTER I ARRIVED, AMIR URGED ME TO PRODUCE SOME VISITORS "FROM U.S. SENATE, ESPECIALLY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE." PERCY VISIT WAS IDEAL RESPONSE, PARTICULARLY WELCOME AT A RELATIVELY CRITICAL TIME IN OUR RELATIONS. FROM PERSPECTIVE WASHINGTON OR LARGER CAPITALS IT IS DIFFICULT TO VIZUALIZE HOW MUCH IMPACT A VISIT OF THIS TYPE HAS IN NOT JUST SYMBOLIZING BUT ACTUALLY ADDING SUBSTANCE TO EXPANSION US/BAHRAIN RELATIONS. (FOR FUTURE REFERENCE GOB WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A SOMEWHAT LONGER STOP, AND WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO OVER BURDEN BAHRAINIS WITH SUCH VISITS) FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THIS LITTLE SPOT SENATOR PERCY'S CALL HERE WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS, FOR WHICH GOB (AND I) MOST GRATEFUL.
TWINAM

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